

RADIAN: practice-led PhD in research and artistic creation

Call for applications 2021

The three higher education schools of culture in Normandy – École supérieure d'art et design Le Havre-Rouen, école supérieure d'arts & médias de Caen/Cherbourg and École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Normandie (ENSA Normandie) – members of the Normandy University Community of Universities and Institutions, and the doctoral school "History, Memory, Heritage, Language" (ED HMPL 558) have created in 2018 RADIAN, a practice-led PhD in artistic research and creation open to the fields of art, design, architecture and creative writing.

Research and pedagogy in cultural higher schools

Pedagogy in the higher education schools of culture is based on a double movement: on the one hand, the mastery of theoretical and cultural knowledge in the fields of history and actuality of art, aesthetics, semiology of art, human and social sciences; on the other hand, the sensitive approach, experimental practice and the acquisition of technical knowledge that leads to the creation and production of plastic forms.

The research carried out by these schools is part of this back and forth process. It is an approach of research-creation, which combines intellectual rigour and sensitive practice. Its ambition is to engage in an investigative approach, considering that thought and reflection can be produced by other means than through written analysis alone, and find their expression in artistic creation and practice.

Many European countries have already implemented practice-led PhDs based on a double articulation of the supervision of PhD candidates, between art schools and universities. RADIAN is one of the few doctoral programs in artistic practice initiated in France. In 2005, a PhD was set up in the national higher schools of architecture. Its integration has developed a multitude of research in architecture, modelled on academic doctoral methodologies. It is carried out under the prism of sciences belonging to its field of analysis: sociology, history, economics, technique, etc. RADIAN offers a PhD that also integrates the process of creation through the project.

On the strength of this dynamic principle, the RADIAN programme, created collectively by ENSA Normandie, ESADHaR, ésam Caen/Cherbourg and ED 558, proposes to bring together architecture, art, design and creative writing in a research programme dedicated to their creative specificities.

A practice-led PhD in creation

The practice-led PhD consists of an artistic work (or a group of artistic works) accompanied by a theoretical document of about one hundred pages and a research notebook retracing the evolution of the project. Proposing to conduct experimental research rooted in contemporary creative practices, the RADIANT practice-led PhD is intended for artists, architects, designers and/or authors with an established and recognized production in their field. RADIANT allows the deployment of research through practice and experimentation that leads to the production of plural artistic forms, coherent with the research problematic. Nourished by constant back-and-forth between theory and practice, between conceptualisation and experimentation, the research approach is deployed within and with the vocabularies, languages, methods, media and issues of contemporary creation. The PhD is directed by two researchers, one of whom holds a habilitation to direct research (« habilitation à diriger des recherches », the academic qualification requested in France in order to supervise PhD students), the other from one of the three schools.

Three PhD students, each receiving an annual grant of ten thousand euros (financed by the Normandy Region), are recruited each year for a period of three years.

Application procedures and timetable

Applications must be sent before **April 2, 2021**, 6 pm (Paris time), in a single PDF document to be submitted on the online application platform at <https://www.esam-c2.fr/formesam/691975>.

No files sent by e-mail will be accepted.

The title of the application file must be "surname, first name". It contains:

- A CV of a maximum of 6,000 characters, including spaces, starting with the surname and first name.
- A precise research project, with a specific title, project of 9,000 characters maximum (spaces included), developing the research problem, specifying the disciplinary field of the application (art/architecture/design/creative writing) and including an indicative bibliography.
- A set of iconographic and textual documents, a portfolio enabling the jury to gain a significant insight into the creative work already undertaken by the candidates of about twenty pages.

Interview of eligible candidates and results: **May 26, 2021** in Caen.

If the application file can be written in English, the interview with the candidates will, however, be held in French.

Renseignements

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ésam
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